



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS  
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

**Wednesday, June 15, 2011**

**10:00 AM**

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioner Bigby, Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Hammargren and Commissioner Moore

Excused: Commissioner Hill

The Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence will be led by Chairperson Montaña.

**Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence followed with self introductions.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Meeting to be called to order by Chairperson Montaña. (11-2760)

**Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.**

2. Approval of the June 8, 2011 Minutes. (11-2761)

**On motion of Supervisor Hammargren, seconded by Supervisor Bigby, this item was approved.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

### **3. Roundtable Discussion**

Department of Auditor-Controller

Department of Children and Family Services

Department of Mental Health

Probation Department

- Update on the outcome of an arrest of a staff person selling drugs at a Group Home;
- Information on why at Camp Kenyon Scudder staff continues to purchase personal hygiene products for the youth that are in holding tanks;
- Update on whether the Probation Department will purchase video cameras for the surveillance of violent incidences at the juvenile Camps and Halls; and
- Determine if pepper spray is allowed to be used in juvenile halls.

Sheriff's Department

Internal Services Department (11-2835)

#### **Probation Department**

**Lisa Campbell-Motton, Director of Placement Permanency & QA of the Probation Department (PD), reported that there were a total of 113 Absent Without Leave resident children for the month of May 2011; 67 remain AWOL; 20 returned to Group Homes; 18 were placed in juvenile hall; and two were sent to Camp (the six unaccounted were repeat AWOLS) .**

**She went on to report on a case of abuse that referred to general neglect; staff was threatened. Two Group Homes are being monitored and currently under investigation. An investigative hold has been placed on Bayfront regarding clients being strip-searched due to possession of non-prescription pills. In response to Commissioner Hall, Ms. Campbell-Motton reported that criminal charges have not been filed and that staff members have been terminated. Additionally, although five reports are currently available on the Website; more reports are forthcoming. Also, Ms. Campbell-Motton reported on 117 permanent placements and 10 potential adoptions.**

**In response to Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Bacio, Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that the opportunity for hygiene prior to court appearances remains as "human-rights" courtesy on a case by case basis; personal hygiene products are also available as a common courtesy. Ms. Howard went on to report that pepper-spray is allowed and remains in possession of qualified staff; however, pepper-spray requires maintenance 24 hours a day, 7 days a**

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week, thus, pepper-spray is not frequently used at juvenile camps and/or Group Homes.

Ms. Howard also reported that disaster-issues are being monitored and that every Court has required "lock-up" manuals in place; Court visits are being conducted and manuals are currently being updated. She responded to Commissioner Moore's question and advised the Commission that protocol regarding emergency (911) calls is in place and enforced; the priority is to immediately provide clients with the necessary medical attention. Ms. Howard will provide an additional report about any legal action taken this year regarding emergent issue at a future meeting.

#### **Sheriff's Department**

Commander Kunihiro, Sheriff's Department, reported on a situation with reflective-tape; he reported that no decision has been made and that this issue is being considered by the Supervisor. Deputy Kiel commented that assaults on all staff are being recorded at various County Jails.

#### **Department of Auditor-Controller's Office**

Cassandra Youngblood, Acting Group Home Ombudsman of the Auditor-Controller, reported that the Group Home Ombudsman Hotline received a total of 13 calls which include complaints from former staff; broken windows; medical fraud; and a variety of complaints from children at Group Homes. Ms. Youngblood also reported on a myriad of allegations against Bayfront and Heritage Group Home's staff persons by resident children. These allegations include child abuse, questionable medical attention, unacceptable living conditions, negligent distribution of funds, and misconduct by Group Home staff persons. Ms. Youngblood assured the Commission that these complaints and allegations are under serious investigation, and that she will provide a follow-up report to the Commission for discussion at a future meeting. Ms. Youngblood noted Commissioner Hall's concerns regarding the quality of services and safety provided to these resident children.

#### **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**

Elizabeth Howard, DCFS, reported that 412 AWOLS were recorded for the month of May. From May 19 thru June 14 the Out of Home Care Management Division received 11 Group Home referrals in the following category; General Neglect three were unfounded and two evaluated out; Sexual Abuse three evaluated out; and Physical Abuse two were evaluated out, and one was unfounded. Ms. Howard went on to apprise the Commission that the Teens Group Home is still under review and

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a corrective action plan is being evaluated. Ms. Howard provided information on a July 11, 2011, fishing trip available by registration for all resident children. The Commission was enthusiastic that these types of events are ongoing, and extended their support.

#### **Department of Mental Health**

Paul McIver, Department of Mental Health, reported that the Department is actively working with all Group Homes to enforce policies and procedures. Mr. McIver assured the Commission that all complaints and concerns are being addressed and the Department is working closely with law enforcement to address all complaint-calls. Mr. McIver also reported on the State Budget, AB 3632 as it relates to reduction of workforce; school services to disabled children at public schools.

#### **Internal Services Department (ISD)**

Michael Henderson, Division Manager, Maintenance Operation Division, reported that ISD improvements of staff response time are ongoing; all plumbing issues continue to be monitored. Mr. Henderson also reported about staff reduction, currently there are eight layoffs, and approximately 50 additional layoffs are expected.

4. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for June 15, 2011. (11-2762)

**Chairperson Montaña shared the following information with the Commission:**

- **Sheriff Seeks Probation Duties (Los Angeles Times, June 14, 2011)**
- **She attended the June 11, 2011 Special Olympics Event**

5. Treasurer's Report for June 15, 2011. (11-2763)

**Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$801.09.**

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (11-2764)

**There was none.**

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports. (11-2765)

**There was none.**

8. Discussion and Consideration of the Scholarship Applications and Program. (11-2766)

**Commissioner Bigby reported that Commissioner Hill have several scholarship candidates and will submit their names to the Commissioner at an up coming meeting; and instructed staff to forward two scholarship applications to Bourne Group Home.**

9. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from June 9, 2011 to June 14, 2011. (11-2767)

**Chairperson Montaña**

- **Penny Lane #4 – 34, #2, the facility was visited on June 13, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**
- **Penny Lane #5 – 35, #1, the facility was visited on June 14, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**

**Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hammargren**

- **Pomona Superior Courthouse, the facility was visited on June 8, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**
- **Heritage Group Home – 21, #2 , the facility was visited on June 14, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**

**Commissioner Moore**

- **Sonya Love Guidance Center – 39, #1, the facility was visited on June 8, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**

**The facilit's Administrator is to contact Commissioner Moore regarding a re-visit appointment, in order to review the Needs and Services Plans.**

**Commissioners Moore and Hall**

- **Vista Del Mar (Main Campus) – 43, #4, the facility was visited on June 14, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.**

### **III. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Matters Not Posted**

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-2768)

**There were no matters presented for a future agenda.**

#### **Public Comment**

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-2769)

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

#### **Adjournment**

12. Adjournment for the meeting of June 15, 2011. (11-2770)

**The June 15, 2011 meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**